

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

- The Preston Citizen newspaper was purchased by Cache Valley Publishing LLC of Seattle, Wash. The new owners are not planning any immediate changes and will continue the tradition of quality journalism.
- The lifting of a building moratorium was greeted with many inquiries about future development of several proposed subdivision sites. Cache Valley Homes, an Arizona-based firm, inquired about a possible 100-lot subdivision and has given planning and zoning official a sketch review but has not made formal application. Plans for four or five subdivisions with four or fewer lots have been submitted to planning and zoning for review.

## ONEIDA COUNTY

- The old Malad Post Office is now the home of a new naturopathic medical clinic owned and operated by Dr. Larry Womack, formerly of Bear River, Utah. According to Womack, the new clinic will be the largest of its type in Idaho and will offer dietary help, a sleep laboratory, colon hydrotherapy and body detoxification. In addition the clinic will also have a chiropractor and a massage therapist.

- Oneida County officials renewed their contract to use the Caribou County jail for the same \$49 per day for seven prisoners. The total cost would be \$125,195 for the six men and one woman. Oneida County commissioners also discussed setting a date for demolition of their jail as required when the insurance carrier canceled coverage for the facility.
- County commissioners have been given a grant from the state Department of Transportation to improve the airport.
- Mountain View Auto, owned by Mike Greenwood, had a large turnout for its grand opening in Malad. The business will service and sell all makes and models of automobiles.

## POWER COUNTY

- Ken's Market owners, sister and brother Sherrie and Rod Garner, purchased Cardinal Market in American Falls from the Farnsworth family. The purchase will allow Ken's to add new products, buy in greater volume and keep many of the current employees.

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# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Nearly 2,000 more people joined the labor force from August to September in the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area as seasonal summer jobs turned into permanent employment and educational institutions began the fall term. There were 3,300 more jobs than in September 2006 as shown in East Central Idaho Table 1 on page 29. The unemployment rate showed little change over the month but dipped five-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year. Health care, education, government administration and professional and business support services all expanded. The growing population is feeding the labor force. Many of the newcomers are young professionals and their spouses with children under 12.

## POPULATION SURROUNDING IDAHO FALLS

The population of Idaho Falls has grown 4.1 percent to nearly 52,800 in mid-2006 since the 2000 census. But the city of Ammon nearly doubled its population. Most residential land in Idaho Falls has been developed

so the only way to accommodate more growth is to annex more land or rezone existing land for residential use. Ammon, on the other hand, still has room to expand, and many subdivisions are in the works. Available land and property taxes lower than in neighboring Idaho Falls makes Ammon attractive to residents planning to move and to newcomers. Commercial sites in Ammon are springing up all around. Bonneville County experienced a 14.7 percent growth in population since the census, another 12,100 people. Almost half of those people located in Ammon.

The Idaho Falls/Ammon area is a hub for medical services and retail business, attracting customers from other counties and even other states judging by the increasing number of out-of-county vehicle license plates. But just how many people are in the vicinity who would come to Bonneville County's metro area for services?

A quarter of a million people live within a 50-mile radius of Idaho Falls. That includes Pocatello, Dubois and Ashton. The distance is a normal daily commute for many

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people, especially those who drive from Idaho Falls to the Idaho National Laboratory and back. Extending the radius to 100 miles, the population increases to almost 320,000. It encompasses Idaho from Malad City to Mackay almost to West Yellowstone, Mont., and parts of Wyoming and Montana. Traveling from these outlying areas to Idaho Falls for shopping and medical services, especially from the north, east and west is not uncommon.

As for the economy, the number of employers in Bonneville County increased by 285 or 23.8 percent from 2000 until 2006. The average employment increased from 39,667 to 47,402 in the same time period, an increase of almost 8,000 or 19.5 percent. These numbers underscore the population growth and economic activity in and around Idaho Falls. The economy is strong, diversified and growing. Continuing migration from states to the west, especially California, will only keep the area growing. More than half the people who have moved to Idaho in the last 15 years came from California.

## BONNEVILLE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

- Spinners is the newest store to open in Taylor Crossing on the River in Idaho Falls. The dealership, owned by Keith Walker, sells scooters, motorcycles and other mobility products, including brands new to the area like Segway, Vespa, Piaggio, Moto Guzzi and Aprilia. Segways are upright motorized two-wheeled devices that have so far been marketed in larger cities. With a top speed of 12.5 miles an hour, they are not yet allowed on greenbelts and in city parks, but Walker hopes this will change so customers can take a spin around the river or in downtown Idaho Falls at a leisurely pace. Walker, who worked for a year to secure dealership rights for Segway, hopes to open stores from Driggs to Coeur d'Alene.

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Sep 2007*	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	59,820	57,990	56,530	3.2	5.8
Unemployment	1,130	1,070	1,370	5.6	-17.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	1.8	2.4		
Total Employment	58,690	56,920	55,160	3.1	6.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	59,690	58,820	57,070	1.5	4.6
Unemployment	780	920	1,350	-15.2	-42.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.3	1.6	2.4		
Total Employment	58,910	57,890	55,720	1.8	5.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	52,770	52,400	50,940	0.7	3.6
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,480	8,540	8,400	-0.7	1.0
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	5,060	5,130	4,980	-1.4	1.6
Manufacturing	3,410	3,400	3,410	0.3	0.0
Food Manufacturing	950	960	970	-1.0	-2.1
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	290	300	260	-3.3	11.5
Machinery Manufacturing	170	170	170	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	2,000	1,970	2,010	1.5	-0.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	44,290	43,860	42,540	1.0	4.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,570	13,700	13,500	-0.9	0.5
Wholesale Trade	3,920	3,940	4,010	-0.5	-2.2
Retail Trade	7,790	7,900	7,700	-1.4	1.2
Utilities	60	70	60	-14.3	0.0
Transportation	1,800	1,790	1,730	0.6	4.0
Information	1,230	1,230	1,260	0.0	-2.4
Financial Activities	2,300	2,310	2,200	-0.4	4.5
Professional & Business Services	6,200	6,200	5,790	0.0	7.1
Educational & Health Services	7,380	7,320	6,870	0.8	7.4
Leisure & Hospitality	4,560	4,700	4,730	-3.0	-3.6
Other Services	1,900	1,970	2,090	-3.6	-9.1
Government Education	3,300	2,740	2,580	20.4	27.9
Government Administration	3,850	3,690	3,520	4.3	9.4

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

- The Collage, a local restaurant since 2002, changed locations and is now located next to Vino Rosso in downtown Idaho Falls. The head chef and owner, Dave Shipley, also expanded his menu to include escargot and foie gras, more vegetarian and gluten-free dishes, sandwiches and Kobe beef burgers. The new location can seat 70 and has a private dining area for up to 30. Reservations are encouraged but not required.

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